

# IN THE TRAIN

*with Uncle Mac*

A LADYBIRD BOOK



## *Hullo Children!*

*All kinds of exciting things happen on a long train journey. It is with the help of men and women railway workers that modern train travel is made as safe as possible.*

*By turning the pages we can go on our journey, and I am longing to start, so—let's go 'In the train!'*

*Jack MacGulloch*

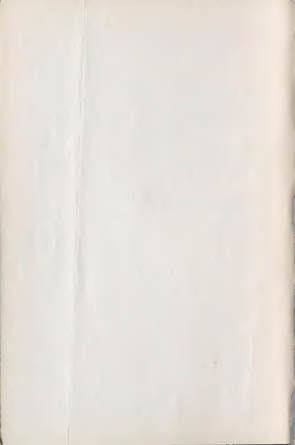
(UNCLE MAC)

A  
LADYBIRD  
BOOK

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Series 455



# IN THE TRAIN

with UNCLE MAC

*By*

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*With illustrations in colour*

*by*

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This train is called a "local" because it stops at many village stations on its way to the big junction.

The engine is quite small but it works hard every day. There is a cattle truck with some cows just in front of the guard's van, which always comes last in a train.

In one of the neat flower-beds the name of the station is in white stones: NEWTON.

Now turn to the next page for a pleasant surprise.

*A Local Station*



Hullo! Here are our friends Bob and Betty just off on a long journey to the seaside. Dog Trigger is with them, so they are a happy party.

They made an early start because it is quite a distance to the big main line junction. Once there, the children will board the London express.

Bob and Betty are by themselves, but the guard will keep an eye on them.

*Off on the Journey*



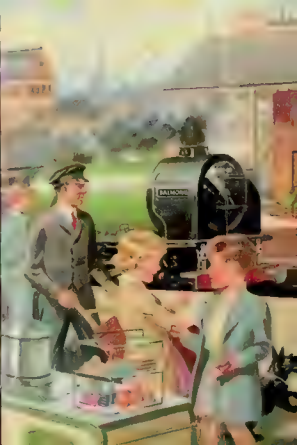


This is a great railway junction where many express trains stop on their long journeys.

Bob and Betty have changed here from the local train. Now they are waiting with their hand luggage for the express train.

The children have bought some chocolate and cakes from the refreshment trolley. Trigger is on his best behaviour, and there is a porter to help them all board the express which is just arriving at the platform.

*At the Junction*



Bob and Betty have taken their seats on the London express. It has narrow corridors right down the train, and there are also dining cars. The smart looking guard has promised to look after the children during their long journey.

The guard has a good watch because he must keep a note of the time. He also has a whistle and a green flag. When he blows his whistle it is time for the express to leave, then he waves his flag which means "ALL RIGHT!"

*The Guard in Charge*



This station has a footbridge with a clear view. There are four sets of straight railway lines—so straight that each pair of lines seems to narrow to one point in the far distance.

Bob and Betty are in the express coming towards us. There is also a local train leaving the small station.

It is thrilling to stand on a railway footbridge and watch the trains rush by.

*On the Overbridge*



Every signal box, or cabin, on a railway is of great importance. Some are quite small, others really large.

A train must never pass a signal showing red for DANGER, or with its arm straight out, and a signalman must be quite certain that the line is clear for safety.

When a train passes a signal box, the signalman sends an electric bell message to the next cabin. This means the "train has passed my section of line!"

*The Signal Box*





There is a long tunnel ahead. Why is there a tunnel? Because there is a great hill through which engineers had to cut a way for the railway lines.

Some tunnels have chimneys through which smoke escapes from the engines. If you were walking on top of the hill you might see the smoke coming out.

Railways also run through "cuttings" where steep walls have been hewn to allow the lines to pass.

*The Tunnel*



The first part of our journey is ending. The express has reached London where Bob and Betty will go to another station.

Just outside London is a huge signal cabin in which three men are busy. Two are pulling the great levers which work the various signals near the London station. The third man is speaking on the telephone to the train control centre, which is a big office where controllers deal with the coming and going of trains.

*Giant Signal Cabin*



So at last our express train has reached London where all is bustle and hurry. Bob and Betty are standing on the platform with their hand luggage and Trigger.

More luggage comes bundling out of the vans, while porters scurry to and fro sorting it out for the passengers.

Uncle John has come to meet Bob and Betty who are thanking the guard for looking after them during the journey.

*The London Terminus*



Uncle John is taking the children across London by Underground. That means in a train which travels deep below the road's surface.

Underground stations have curved walls and roof, and the walls are covered with advertisements. Lighted train indicators hang from the roof.

A brightly lit train comes clattering from the tunnel and stops at the long platform.

Many people travel by Underground because it is quicker than the buses.

*Underground Station*





Here are Bob and Betty in the underground train with their uncle and Trigger. The train is rather noisy, and it sways and rattles as it rushes along.

Some seats are in pairs facing each other, while others are in rows. In every carriage there are route maps which show all the stations. The junctions have special marks so that passengers know where to change for another underground route, or service.

*In the Underground*



Bob and Betty have to get from underground up to street level again.

This is done by riding on an escalator, or moving staircase, which is an endless belt of stairs driven by electricity. You should get on with your left foot, and step off the same way because the stairs are "running" all the time.

One set goes up, and the other down. You can stand still and be carried up, or you can walk up them as they move just as you please.

*On the Escalator*



Bob and Betty have now reached the main line station in London, which serves the South West of England. Here another express train will take them to the sea.

There are about twenty-four platforms, and in the centre of the station is a four-sided clock under which many people meet their friends.

Uncle John has bought some fruit for Bob and Betty, and a packet of biscuits for Trigger.

Soon they will be off again on the long journey.

*Waterloo Station, London*



Uncle John then explained that engines get their steam power from coal or oil, but generally coal.

Coal locomotives have tenders filled with coal which take a long time to load by hand. Big stations have coal hoppers which are wonderful things, and there is one here.

A coal hopper can catch up a whole truck of coal, carry it to the top and, as the truck swings over on its side, shoot the whole load of coal into the engine tenders standing below.

*The Coal Hopper*





A railway engine needs water as much as coal, and a large locomotive may carry in its tender 5,000 gallons of water. This express does not stop for a long time so it must take on some more water as it travels along.

Between the rails at certain points are long water troughs, and, as the engine races on, the driver lets down an automatic "scoop". The water rushes up a pipe to the tank in the tender, filling it again.

*The Water Trough*



Uncle John said goodbye, and now the express is thundering on its journey towards the seaside.

There is a dining car on this train, so Uncle John got tickets for Bob and Betty who are smiling at the thought of a jolly good meal. They have a small table for two.

"What would you like?" asks the steward, and they choose soup, roast meat and vegetables, apple-pie and ginger beer.

There is a kitchen on the train, and a real chef to cook the meals.

*In the Dining Car*



Off upon its long journey to the coast our express must cross this curved bridge. From the corridor Bob and Betty can see the front of the train with the engine.

A big city lies ahead. The slender spires of a cathedral are in sight, and a river winds along. There are many factories with tall chimneys, and rows of little houses.

*A Big City*



At this big city there is a ten-minute stop which gives Bob and Betty the chance of a quick glance at the engine.

It is hot, with a lovely oily smell and the kindly engine driver points out some of the special levers.

The driver must see that steam pressure is being kept up all the time, and, while he is on duty, keep constant look out ahead for the safety of his passengers.

*On the Footplate*





Bob and Betty had a glimpse of the engine's footplate, and saw the driver. But an equally important person is the fireman, or stoker. He **MUST** keep up steam for the engine to pull the train.

The fireman opens the furnace door where the red and orange flames are roaring. Then backwards he swings his long shovel **EMPTY** and then forward **FULL!** He shoots more and more coal into the great furnace and the wheels go faster and faster. Well done, fireman!

*Stoking the Engine*



I am sure you have seen a level crossing from the road, and watched a train thunder past while the motor traffic and people wait.

Level crossing gates are usually worked by a signalman in his nearby cabin. He closes the gates to road traffic when a train is due, and opens them again when the line is clear.

At small level crossings the gates are worked by hand, while at some you can cross by a small side gate. You must NEVER cross when a train is due.

*The Level Crossing*



Now it is *all* sea beside the railway line, and we run past several more sandy beaches. Just ahead is a bridge a VIADUCT where motor cars and buses run on the road beneath.

We must not stick our heads out to see, for that is dangerous. Oh, what a thrilling moment with the end of the journey in sight, and friends waiting at Sandbay station to welcome Bob and Betty for a seaside holiday!

*We are nearly there*



SANDBAY, says the board on the station as our express steams slowly in and stops. The children rush with Trigger to the end of the platform where their friends are waiting. Bob and Betty call out to the engine driver:

“Thank you for a safe and lovely journey!”

“Glad you enjoyed it!” grins the driver, while the fireman waves a grimy hand. The engine, too, looks dirty but somehow very proud.

Our journey is over, and I hope YOU enjoyed it, too!

*Derek McCulloch*









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